REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5, 8, and 14-19 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 14, and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1, 5, 8, and 14-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii (US 6,781,786) in view of Yamakoshi et al. (US 5,600,501). The Examiner recognizes that Ishii does not disclose writing a predetermined unique pattern or an identifiable predetermined pattern generated by a dedicated pattern generating circuit onto an area on a magnetic disk other than a user data area by the one or more magnetic heads, and cites Yamakoshi for allegedly providing the missing teaching.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 5, 14, and 15 as amended are patentable over Ishii and Yamakoshi et al. because, for instance, they do not teach or suggest writing a predetermined unique pattern generated by a dedicated pattern generating circuit onto an area on a magnetic disk other than a user data area by the one or more magnetic heads, wherein the user data area has a preamble area (as recited in claims 1 and 14), or using the write head to write an identifiable predetermined pattern generated by a dedicated pattern generating circuit onto an area other than a user data area of the magnetic disk, wherein the user data area has a preamble area (as recited in claims 5 and 15).

Yamakoshi et al. discloses a method for compensating a phase shift (T1) that is attributed from a R/W head gap separation (Length L). T1 varies depending on the position in a disk radial direction (col. 3, line 58 to col. 4, line 2). In Yamakoshi et al., Fig. 12 shows the data format of a disk, such as "clock patterns 53," "timing compensation patterns 54," and "data segments 52."

The method of Yamakoshi et al., however, is premised on the so-called "external synchronization system" (col. 6, lines 20-22) as opposed to a self synchronization system. As discussed at column 1, lines 20-33, "clock patterns 53" are used for synchronizing to read or write user data on the "data segment 52." The "clock patterns 53" correspond to the ***preamble*** of a user data area in the present invention; it does not correspond to any data of "other than a user data area." Moreover, as seen in Fig. 12 of Yamakoshi et al., there exist "timing compensation patterns 54" between the "clock pattern 53" and the "data segment 52" corresponding to Data/Pattern C of the user data area (see Fig. 2 of present application). Thus, the "timing compensation patterns 54" would apparently be in the "user data area" as provided in the present invention, **not** in "other than a user data area." Even if combined, Ishii and Yamakoshi et al. do not render unpatentable independent claims 1, 5, 14, and 15.

The Examiner points to Fig. 6 and column 6, lines 41-43 in Yamakoshi et al. for disclosing a pattern generating circuit configured to generate a unique pattern to be written onto an area on a magnetic disk other than a user data area by the write head. In Yamakoshi et al., the "dedicated pattern generating circuit" is disclosed as "RECORDING DATA GENERATION 16." The "RECORDING DATA GENERATION 16," however, is used for merely generating a "data suitable for recording" (col. 6, lines 42-43). In other words, the "RECORDING DATA GENERATION 16" is an "encoding circuit," **not** the "dedicated pattern generating circuit." In the present invention, the function of an encoding circuit is provided in Recording Circuit 22 of Fig. 1, as described in the specification.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 5, 14, and 15, and claims 8 and 16-19 depending therefrom, are patentable over Ishii and Yamakoshi et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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